

Boston Harbor Islands Partnership
Meeting Minutes
WilmerHale, 60 State Street, 26th Floor, Boston, MA
May 18, 2015, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Attendees: Maureen Cavanaugh and Rob Moir—Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council; Phil Griffiths—Boston Harbor Island Alliance (BHIA); Austin Blackmon —City of Boston; Susan Kane and Samantha Overton—Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); Fred Laskey—Massachusetts Water Resources Authority; Ruth Raphael for Giles Parker—National Park Service (NPS); LT Ronaydee Marquez for CDR Marc Knowlton—United States Coast Guard (USCG).

Samantha Overton, Acting Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed all. There was a motion made to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2015, meeting. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

Park Updates

Spectacle Island

Susan Kane reported that DCR was working with the City of Boston and Boston Harbor Island Alliance to open Spectacle Island on Saturday, May 23. Trails look good, visitor center is ready, a generator is in place for electric service, and drinking water will be available on island.

Opening Day

The park kicked off the season with a free ferry day on opening day, May 9. It was the largest opening day to date with over 2800 visitors on Georges Island.

Dock Assessment

NPS has funding for a dock assessment of DCR public docks that should be complete by the end of 2015. Samantha said that DCR is drafting new capital plans and this assessment will help inform the effort.

Deer Island

Fred Laskey said that a new public fishing pier at Deer Island was approved at the April Board of Director's meeting to increase public accessibility. Extra parking spots will be added. Salt water fishing licenses are required. Fred reported that the Volunteers and Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands held their annual meeting at Deer Island.

Susan Kane thanked MWRA for their help in water quality testing of the beaches on Spectacle and Peddocks Island.

Programming

Summer Programs

Rebecca Smerling, BHIA, gave a report on the programming that is planned for the season that will go into high-gear on June 20. She passed out a calendar of events. One highlight will be an art initiative that will include 10 installations on Georges Island, performance art on Spectacle Island, and landside attractions. Boston Light Tours will resume this year.

Website

Phil Griffiths reported that the public launch of the redesign of the partnership website BostonHarborIslands.org was launched on April 1. He invited all to give feedback about the site, and requested images.

MET grant

Philip Griffiths said that BHIA is partnering with NPS, DCR, The Boston Harbor Association and Save the Harbor Save the Bay on a youth engagement initiative and have applied for funding through Massachusetts Environmental Trust.

Find Your Park

Ruth mentioned NPS initiative “Find Your Park” has started roll-out in social media, and that Boston Harbor Islands will be included.

Boston Light 300

Plans for a celebration of Boston Light’s 300th anniversary are progressing well. USCG is planning a ribbon cutting with in Boston on September 14 with many festivities.

Nominating Committee

A nominating committee will be formed to identify candidates recommend new officers. Susan Kane, Marianne Connolly, Phil Griffiths, and Giles Parker offered to serve on it.

Advisory Council

Maureen Cavanaugh announced the next meeting of the Council will be held on June 10 and invited all to come.

Public Comment

There was no additional public

The meeting was adjourned.